

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Tonawanda Coke Corporation - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: POLREP #42
RV1
Tonawanda Coke Corporation
0201601
Tonawanda, NY

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From: Peter Lisichenko, OSC

Date: 5/1/2019

Reporting Period: 04/26/2019 through 05/02/2019

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A28U	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	10/17/2018	Start Date:	10/17/2018
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	NYD088413877	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	Yes
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1 Incident Category

Abandoned coke manufacturing plant releasing hazardous substances into the environment.

1.1.2 Site Description

Tonawanda Coke Corporation is a coke manufacturing plant; approximately 160 acres in an industrial area. The facility has been in operation for approximately 100 years. The 30 currently operating coke ovens have been in use since early 1960.

1.1.2.1 Location

The facility is located at 3875 River Rd, Tonawanda, Erie County, New York. The area is an industrial area adjacent to the Niagara River. The nearest residence is located approximately 0.25 miles away.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Flammable liquids contained in bulk storage tanks pose a threat of fire and explosion should they encounter an ignition source. Sodium hydroxide, a corrosive material, has been discharged onto the ground and poses

a health threat to anyone who may come in contact with this material. One scrubber tower contains a pyrophoric material which may spontaneously combust if the nitrogen blanket inside the vessel is not maintained. Drums of hydrochloric acid and solvents are being stored on an unpaved surface without secondary containment. A full removal site evaluation will be conducted when conditions allow.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

EPA is evaluating the Site to identify all areas of concern and determine which facility operations will require EPA's immediate attention to circumvent a release of hazardous substances to the environment.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

See previous POLREPS for additional response actions.

An Action Memorandum confirming three verbal authorizations of funding, and requesting additional funding and an exemption from the 12-month and \$2 million limitations on removal actions was put into concurrence on April 24, 2019. The Action Memorandum will be routed from the Regional Administrator to the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Land and Emergency Management.

A web inquiry regarding Tonawanda Coke Corporation Site applicability for EPA's Superfund Program and the New York State's Brownfields Program was received on April 17, 2019. A response was prepared by both PAD and RAB and submitted on April 25, 2019.

A news crew from WICU/WSEE arrived at the Site on April 30, 2019 to attempt to acquire photos and video for a story on TCC's sister plant, Erie Coke Corporation in Erie, Pennsylvania. The OSC explained that a media request would need to be submitted to PAD prior to access to the Site. The contact information for the EPA Buffalo office was provided and the news crew departed the facility.

The discharge of effluent from ST21 to the Town of Tonawanda Wastewater Treatment Plant was suspended on April 30, 2019 due to a leak identified in the transmission line to the sanitary sewer. The system is currently being evaluated to identify an alternate connection to the sanitary system.

On April 30, 2019, a conference call was held between RAB, ORC, the U.S. DOJ, representatives from TCC, and a TCC retained auction house to discuss the potential sale of TCC assets and the logistical challenges of holding an auction at the Site. Topics included access to the Site, health and safety issues, and the decontamination of equipment prior to leaving the facility. A walk-through of the Site has been scheduled for May 2, 2019 between EPA, TCC and representatives from the auction house.

The transfer of material from the "moat" to the Weir tank continued this week. In addition, treated material from the Weir tank continues to be discharged to the Town of Tonawanda Wastewater Treatment Plant. The rate of discharge continues at 3,000 gallons per day based on analytical results received from the April 8, 2019 sampling event. The results from the April 22, 2019 sampling event has been received and is currently being reviewed by Site Waste Water Engineer to verify compliance with the discharge permit and evaluate the flow rate.

The decommissioning of Sump No. 6 and the LGA Sump was completed this week by the ERRS contractor. Tasks included removing pumps and associated piping from the sump, pumping of water to the "moat" area, removing residual sludges, removing impacted surface soils adjacent to the sumps, and backfilling the sumps with crusher run gravel (with fines). The oil and water separator located near the former Weak Liquor Tanks is to be decommissioned next.

Temperature monitoring of the LBA tower continues via infrared camera. No notable changes have been observed since the deactivation of the nitrogen supply on January 23, 2019.

The monthly sampling event for the industrial discharge permit and the SPDES permit is scheduled for May 22, 2019 and will be performed by the RST contractor.

The removal of the coal, coke and breeze at the Site by Powers Coal & Coke continued this week. To date, approximately 7,912 tons of coal and 2,093 tons of breeze material have been removed. Representatives from Powers Coal & Coke met with EPA on April 30, 2019 to discuss the spring and summer schedule for the removal of product from the Site.

Periodic maintenance of the storm water system continued this week. Tasks by the ERRS contractor included maintenance of the inclined retention basin (skimming of the surface water and readjusting the harbor boom that had been placed near the inlet to better capture surface material) and changing of absorbent boom at various catch basins throughout the Site.

The PRP for Site 108 submitted a draft Tank Product Removal and Demolition Plan on April 24, 2019 that is currently being reviewed by EPA.

2.1.3 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

TCC filed for bankruptcy on October 16, 2018. ORC continues to represent EPA's interest with TCC attorneys. EPA is negotiating an Administrative Order on Consent regarding the Site 108 Phase 1 work with another PRP.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

1. Continue to pump water from the containment and sump areas for treatment in the Weir tank. Periodic discharge to the sanitary sewer will be guided by analytical results from the Weir tank water samples to ensure compliance with the Industrial Use Permit.
2. Continue to maintain stormwater discharges. Tasks to include periodic maintenance of the retention basin and maintenance of absorbent boom placed at catchbasins adjacent to the Oil House.
3. Continue to discharge remaining liquids in the equalization tanks (ST21 and ST22) to the sanitary sewer system.
4. Continue to conduct monthly and semi-annual sampling events of discharges to the sanitary sewer system to ensure compliance with the Industrial Use Permit.
5. Continue to conduct monthly and semi-annual sampling events of stormwater discharges to ensure compliance with the SPDES Permit.
6. Continue to maintain essential services to the Command Post and Guard House including domestic water, sewer, electric, and heat.
7. Continue to maintain heat and electrical services at the Site 108 Pump House.
8. Remove contaminated surface soil and decontaminate sumps in the by-products area and backfill with crusher run gravel (with fines).
9. Develop and evaluate strategies to address the potentially pyrophoric material in the COG pipe infrastructure. Evaluations of the different strategies is to include cost effectiveness.
10. Develop a strategy for the removal of product lines and process vessels in the by-products area so that secondary containments can be decommissioned.
11. Identify tanks and vessels with residual material that may pose a threat and develop a strategy for the removal of the material which may include demolition of the structure.
12. Continue to clean the gas/coal tar secondary containment area "moat".

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA will continue to assess the potential public and environmental threats posed by the Site.

2.2.2 Issues

Electrical and mechanical breakdowns continue to occur due to the antiquated, poor condition of the plant equipment.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

EPA is funding the Removal Action.

- October 14, 2018 - Verbal authorization provided a \$200,000 total project ceiling, of which \$150,000 was for mitigation contracting.
- October 18, 2018 - Verbal authorization provided a \$500,000 total project ceiling increase, of which \$400,000 was for mitigation contracting.
- November 20, 2018 - Verbal authorization provided a \$1,200,000 total project ceiling increase, of which \$1,000,000 was for mitigation contracting.
- April 17, 2019 - Authorization provided to increase mitigation contracting by \$100,000 to \$1,650,000.

The total project ceiling verbally authorized for the Site is \$1,900,000, of which \$1,650,000 is for mitigation contracting.

The costs below include pending costs.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$1,650,000.00	\$1,566,658.18	\$83,341.82	5.05%
TAT/START	\$250,000.00	\$72,611.51	\$177,388.49	70.96%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$1,900,000.00	\$1,639,269.69	\$260,730.31	13.72%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

EPA is coordinating with, DOJ, NYSDEC and the Town of Tonawanda Water Resources Department.

4. Personnel On Site

One OSC, 3 ERRS and 2 RST3 personnel.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.